

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:EMP

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

E: MR. POATS (DRAFTS)

S/S:MR. LUERS

S:LPBREMER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065459

TOSEC 953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM U.S. TUNISIAN JOINT
COMMISSION(S/S NO. 7505660)

FOR THE SECRETARY THROUGH ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. THE PROBLEM

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON MAY 1-2 OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INAUGURATE THE U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION WITH A SHORT FORMAL SESSION ON MAY 2. SINCE THE COMPOSITION OF THE TUNISIAN OFFICIAL PARTY WILL BE INFLUENCED BY WHETHER A JOINT COMMISSION INAUGURAL SESSION IS PLANNED, AND TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA IS CURRENTLY IN TUNIS WORKING OUT TUNISIA'S PROPOSALS FOR THE VISIT, WE WOULD LIKE TO CABLE A DECISION TO EMBASSY TUNIS ON THIS MATTER. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY APPROVE INCLUDING A SHORT INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION IN THE NOUIRA VISIT SCHEDULE AND THAT

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THE SECRETARY JOIN NOUIRA IN MAKING BRIEF OPENING

REMARKS AT THE MEETING.

2. BACKGROUND

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT AND WILL MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 1. THE GOT WOULD WELCOME HOLDING THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON THIS OCCASION. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH THE COMMISSION.

SINCE YOUR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF THIS PROPOSAL WILL INFLUENCE DECISIONS ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF TUNISIA'S OFFICIAL PARTY WHICH ARE NOW BEING TAKEN BY THE GOT WITH AMBASSADOR HEDDA, WHO IS IN TUNIS FOR THIS PURPOSE, WE ARE POSING THIS CHOICE TO YOU IN ADVANCE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE VISIT SCENARIO MEMORANDUM WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED NEXT WEEK.

YOU HAVE AGREED TO HEAD THE COMMISSION ON THE AMERICAN SIDE AND WE BELIEVE NOUIRA WILL HEAD THE TUNISIAN SIDE. IF YOU APPROVE LAUNCHING THE COMMISSION DURING NOUIRA'S VISIT, THE INAUGURAL SESSION COULD BE SCHEDULED ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2. WE ANTICIPATE THAT NOUIRA WOULD LIKE TO JOIN WITH YOU IN AN EXCHANGE OF REMARKS FORMALLY OPENING THE SESSION. THIS SHOULD REQUIRE NO MORE THAN TWENTY MINUTES, AFTER WHICH YOU WOULD DEPART. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, AS U.S. VICE CHAIRMAN, WOULD CONDUCT THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING .

3. RECOMMENDATION:

A. THAT WE HOLD A BRIEF INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION ON MAY 2. APPROVE
DISAPPROVE

B. THAT YOU AGREE TO JOIN WITH NOUIRA IN MAKING THE OPENING REMARKS FOR THIS SESSION. APPROVE
DISAPPROVE

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4. CLEARANCE: E - MR. POATS; S - MR. BREMER. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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